INDEPENDENT Contribute Subscribe LOGIN

News > World > Europe

Jean-Luc Brunel: Jeffrey Epstein-linked fashion agent found dead in cell

Detained associate of late billionaire faced charge of underage rape

Liam James •

Epstein-linked fashion agent Jean-Luc Brunel found dead in cell

INDEPENDENT Contribute Subscribe LOGIN

A French fashion agent linked to Jeffrey Epstein was found dead in his prison cell on Friday night, the Paris prosecutor's office said.

Jean-Luc Brunel, 76, was in detention awaiting a trial on charges of rape of a minor and sexual harassment.

INDEPENDENT Contribute Subscribe LOGIN

US prosecutors accused Brunel of finding young girls for his longtime associate and financier.

Lawyers for the fashion agent suggested he had killed himself, according to reports in the French press.

Recommended

Jean-Luc Brunel: Virginia Giuffre 'disappointed not to be able to face abuser after suicide'

Who is Jean-Luc Brunel? Disgraced fashion agent and Jeffrey Epstein friend found dead after 'suicide' in jail

Le Monde reported his legal team as saying: "His decision was not driven by guilt, but by a deep sense of injustice."

Brunel was arrested in December 2020 at Paris's Charles de Gaulle airport while trying to board a plane to Senegal.

He co-founded modelling agency MC2 Model Management in the US with funding from Epstein.

INDEPENDENT Contribute Subscribe LOGIN

Jean-Luc Brunel was accused of finding girls for Epstein
(BFM TV)

Several women accused Brunel of sexual assault, and at least a dozen people were known to have given evidence for the French investigation into allegations against Epstein and his circle.

Virginia Giuffre, who claims she was trafficked by Epstein as a teenager, alleged that Brunel procured women, some of them minors, for sex with Epstein and others. He lured them with promises of modelling work, she said.

Epstein's illicit activities have resurfaced in recent months due to a number of high-profile cases involving his associates.

INDEPENDENT Contribute Subscribe LOGIN

Brunel with Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell on the billionaire's private jet
(US District Attorney's Office)

Ghislaine Maxwell, the socialite daughter of late press baron Robert Maxwell and a former girlfriend of Epstein, was found guilty in December of recruiting and grooming girls for the financier.

INDEPENDENT Contribute Subscribe LOGIN

Prosecutors described Maxwell as a “sophisticated predator” who targeted vulnerable young girls. She is set to be sentenced on 28 June and faces up to 65 years in prison – meaning the 60-year-old could spend the rest of her life behind bars.

Recommended

Virginia Giuffre responds after alleged abuser Jean-Luc Brunel found dead in cell

Who is Jean-Luc Brunel? Jeffrey Epstein friend found dead after ‘suicide’ in jail

INDEPENDENT Contribute Subscribe LOGIN

Ms Giuffre, the most prominent of Epstein's accusers, said she hoped Maxwell's guilty verdict was "another step in justice being served" but that "Maxwell did not act alone. Others must be held accountable. I have faith that they will be".

Prince Andrew settled a civil sexual assault case brought against him by Ms Giuffre this week. She sued the Duke of York claiming she was forced to have sex with him when she was 17 years old after being trafficked by Epstein. Prince Andrew denied her allegations.

More about: Jean-Luc Brunel Jeffrey Epstein